

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Baker Island Light Station

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Baker Island, Acadia National Park (ACAD) N/A not for publication  
city, town Islesford, X vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04646

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	3	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	4	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
			0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Light Stations of Maine

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*James S. Feltmeyer* SHPO  
Signature of certifying official  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
Date 10/30/87

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*Edward P. Beards*  
Signature of commenting or other official  
Date 12/22/87  
*Chief Historian, National Park Service*  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

*Amy Schlager* 3/14/88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-Related

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Other: Light Station

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

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walls Brick

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Wood: Weatherboard

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roof Asphalt

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other

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Baker Island Light Station is located on a small island which is now part of Acadia National Park. The complex, situated nearly seventy feet above sea level, consists of a cylindrical brick tower, a detached one-and-a-half-story frame keeper's house, an oil house, and a fuel house.

**1. LIGHT TOWER - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

Attaining a height of thirty-seven feet from its base to the lens focal plane, the tower, built in 1855, is entered from a door facing the house. Originally covered by a passageway, the door is flanked by the surviving square brick walls which are joined to the round tower. Two window openings, now covered, are located in the tower's south and north face respectively. They illuminate the interior spiral stair. An iron walkway with a railing projects slightly over the walls. An octagonal iron lantern with clear glass panes in its upper section surmounts the tower. It is capped by a domed polygonal roof featuring a spherical ventilator. The 1903 Annual Report of the Light-House Board makes reference to a reinforcement of the tower, but the exact nature of this undertaking is not clear.

**2. KEEPER'S HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

Constructed in 1855, the keeper's house is an L-shaped building sheathed in clapboards that rests on a brick foundation. Its three-bay facade has a door at the northeast corner and two window openings (now boarded over). Shallow pediments frame these openings. A gable roofed dormer surmounts the central window and a brick chimney punctuates the roof ridge. There are four symmetrically placed windows on the west gable end and three on the east end. Originally, a door was located on this tower end. There are two windows on the rear elevation of the main block as well as a second dormer. The short ell has a window and narrow shed roofed vestibule on the east side, a single window at the rear and a door and one window on the wall. A brick flue rises through the ell.

A documentary photograph of the Baker Island Light Station shows that the existing tower and house have undergone a number of changes since they were built in 1855. The dwelling's clapboards replace the original board-and-batten siding and the dormers are later additions. Further alterations were made with the removal of the narrow connecting passageway between the house and tower.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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3. OIL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The diminutive brick oil house, constructed in 1895, is typical of other similar buildings erected at this time. It features a ridge mounted ventilator and a door surmounted by a transom in one gable end.

4. FUEL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The rectangular, gable roofed fuel house is a wooden frame building sheathed in wood shingles. Constructed in 1905, the building has a large double door and window in one gable end and a smaller side door and central window in the opposite end. Small windows punctuate the sides.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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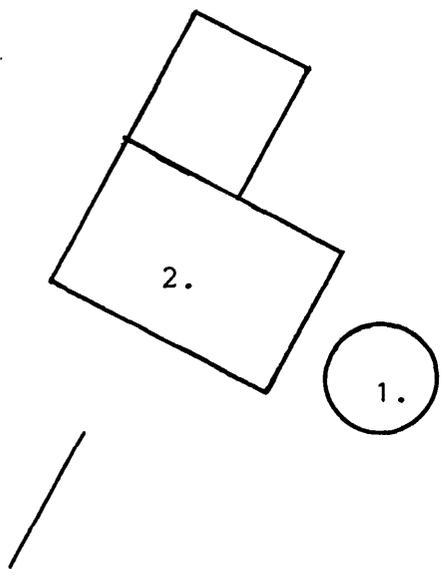
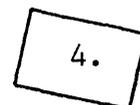
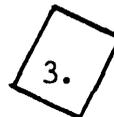


Photo 1



Sketch Map

Baker Island Light Station  
Islesford Vic., Maine

Not to Scale

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Engineering  
Transportation

Period of Significance

1855-1937

Significant Dates

1855

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Designer

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Standing at the summit of Baker Island, the Baker Island Light Station is a relatively intact example of an 1850s Maine complex. It possesses integrity of design, setting, and association necessary for registration in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". The station's significance is evaluated with respect to the historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

The light station at Baker Island was established in 1828 as a guide to the south entrance to Frenchman's Bay and Mount Desert Island. Its strategic location as a navigational aid is emphasized by the number of coastal communities in the vicinity as well as its role in guiding vessels along the coast between the lights at Saddleback Ledge to the southwest and Petit Manan to the northeast. It was the first light station established in the vicinity of Mount Desert Island. During the late nineteenth century the Baker Island Light guided the numerous vessels which came to Mount Desert bearing tourists for the resorts at Bar Harbor, Northeast Harbor, and others.

The tower continues to serve as an aid to navigation under the supervision of the Coast Guard. The keeper's dwelling and ancillary buildings have been transferred to Acadia National Park as has the entire island.

Baker Island light derives significance under criteria A and C. Criteria A is satisfied by the association of the complex with Maine's critical reliance on maritime transportation and the aids that made navigation possible. Criteria C is met by the station's distinctive character that primarily embodies mid-nineteenth century light station design and construction.

See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Report of the Light-House Board. Washington, D.C.: U. S. G. P. O., various dates.

Maine State Year Book and Legislative Manual. Portland: various publishers and dates.

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

### Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

### Specify repository:

National Park Service, Acadia National Park Inventory

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 10

### UTM References

A 1 9 | 5 6 3 8 2 0 | 4 8 9 8 8 1 0  
Zone Easting Northing

C 1 9 | 5 6 4 1 0 0 | 4 8 9 8 6 6 0

B 1 9 | 5 6 4 1 0 0 | 4 8 9 8 8 1 0  
Zone Easting Northing

D 1 9 | 5 6 3 8 2 0 | 4 8 9 8 6 6 0

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of approximately 10 acres occupies the Town of Cranberry Isles, Tax Map 29, Lot 2.

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Baker Island Light Station surrounds the buildings and immediate setting historically associated with the complex.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1987

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333



LIGHT TOWER + KEEPER'S HOUSE  
BAKER ISLAND LIGHT STATION

ISLESFORD VIC., MAINE

DEBORAH WADE

8/1987

MHPC

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST

PHOTO 1